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Description of a new genus and species associated to the family Chaerilobuthidae Lourenço & Beigel, 2011 from Early Cretaceous Burmite (Chelicerata: Scorpiones)

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andreschmidti;
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description;
new genus;
new species;
variability;
Burmite.

Abstract. – One more new genus and species of fossil scorpion associated to the family Chaerilobuthidae Lourenço & Beigel, 2011 are described from Early Cretaceous Burmite. *Spinochaerilobuthus* Lourenço **gen**. **n**., with the new species *Spinochaerilobuthus andreschmidti* Lourenço **sp**. **n**., represents the third genus to be clearly associated to this familial group which is so far one of the most speciose among those known from Burmite. The new genus shows several clear morphological characters which can distinguish it from the two other known genera previously confirmed as associated to the family Chaerilobuthidae, attesting the existence of a marked generic variability within this family. Further comments on the variability of different morphological characters are also presented.

Lourenço W. R. & Velten J., 2026. – Description of a new genus and species associated to the family Chaerilobuthidae Lourenço & Beigel, 2011 from Early Cretaceous Burmite (Chelicerata: Scorpiones). *Faunitaxys*, 14(29): 1 – 8.

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Introduction

Since the first description of a Burmite scorpion (Lourenço, 2002), the knowledge on this amber fauna knew a remarkable development (Lourenço, 2023). These preliminary studies were however, based on rather incomplete specimens, which could correspond only to fragments. Subsequently, the study of an almost complete specimen led to the creation of the new family Chaerilobuthidae, and a new genus *Chaerilobuthus* having as type species *Chaerilobuthus complexus* Lourenço & Beigel, 2011 (Lourenço & Beigel, 2011). The genus *Chaerilobuthus* remained monotypic during several years, until the tentative assignment of a second genus to this family, *Chaeriloiurus* Lourenço, 2020 (Lourenço & Velten, 2020). Subsequently, new data attesting that the position of this genus remained unclear, led to consider it as an *incertae familiae* genus (Lourenço & Velten, 2024). Following this decision, another new genus was proposed for the family Chaerilobuthidae, *Serratochaerilobuthus* Lourenço, 2024 (Lourenço & Velten, 2024).
Shortly after, in a tentative contribution to the classification of the family Chaerilobuthidae, Xuan et al. (2025) placed both *Chaeriloiurus* Lourenço, 2020, and *Serratochaerilobuthus* Lourenço, 2024 in the synonymy with *Chaerilobuthus*. Clearly, Xuan et al. (2025) did not acknowledge that *Chaeriloiurus* was already considered an *incertae familiae* genus (Lourenço & Velten, 2024) and was no longer placed within *Chaerilobuthidae*. The position of this genus remains yet unclear and will depend on the finding and study of new elements associated to this generic group. Similarly, the diagnostic characters defining *Serratochaerilobuthus* were dismissed by Xuan et al. (2025). In particular, the most reliable feature-the presence of an extra trichobothrium on the ventral face of the chela, was rejected on the grounds that it was not supported by photographic evidence. It is very important to recall that these authors did not examine any of the studied holotypes and, as usual, suggested, in a pure speculative basis, that this feature was most likely a misinterpreted macro-or-microseta. This character was however confirmed during the study and description of a second species for the genus *Serratochaerilobuthus* (Lourenço & Velten, 2025). In this same study both genera were restored as valid based on counterarguments that were overlooked by Xuan et al. (2025).
In this same paper by Xuan et al. (2025), one major taxonomic aspect remained debatable: the taxonomic position of the family Chaerilobuthidae which was deeply modified by Xuan et al. (2025). In their publication, the authors proposed several taxonomic changes regarding the families Chaerilobuthidae Lourenço & Beigel, 2011 and Pseudochactidae Gromov, 1998, mostly based on alleatorious and speculative argumentations. In a previous paper (Lourenço & Velten, 2025), we totally disagreed with their opinion and exposed our arguments to reject the position of these authors (Lourenço & Velten, 2025). Nevertheless, as already expected, Prendini et al. (2026)

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reiterated in their position, based as usual and once again, on speculative information (see Lourenço & Velten, 2025 for more details). In a previous publication (Lourenço & Velten, 2026), we have already maintained the family Chaerilobuthidae in its original *status quo*. This position is confirmed at present. Further discussions on this subject will be proposed in a coming publication (Lourenço, in preparation).

Material and methods

The studied specimen is preserved in a clear oval to round piece of yellow amber that measures 14 x 12 mm and is about 3-4 mm thick. The scorpion is basically complete; however, some parts are quite dark, almost blackish, due to the oxidation of the resin, preventing a good observation of several characters. Nevertheless, other characters are clearly visible, allowing a correct diagnosis of the new genus and species. The schematic drawings provided are an interpretation of what was observable. Illustrations and measurements were produced with the aid of a Wild M5 stereomicroscope equipped with a drawing tube (camera lucida) and an ocular micrometre. Measurements follow Stahnke (1970) and are given in mm. Cheliceral notations follow Vachon (1963) and trichobothrial notations are those of Vachon (1974). Other morphological terminologies mostly follow Hjelle (1990). Trichobothria are definitely recorded when their bothria (areoles) are clearly observed, but the presence of other trichobothria can be suggested by the observation of thin hairs. Considering the morphologies of pedipalps, pecten and telson the scorpion is most certainly a juvenile female.

Comments on some characters observed for the genera of the family Chaerilobuthidae

Shape of the anterior margin of the carapace. For a majority of species belonging to the three accepted genera the anterior margin is straight. In a small number of species, it can be convex, or concave (Fig. 6), such as for the new species described here.

Median and lateral eyes. In most cases, median eyes are absent. In a small number of species these can be present but diminutive, as for the new species presently described (Fig. 6). Lateral eyes are present in most species, including the new one described here, in numbers of two pairs or more rarely one pair. Their total absence is also observed for a number of species. More rarely, a macula was observed in the place of lateral eyes, as for *C. meggeri* Lourenço, 2021.

Chelicerae. For at least some species the cheliceral dentition was well observed, showing long distal teeth which overlap for about one fourth to one half of their length; movable finger with distal internal tooth markedly longer than distal external tooth; movable finger with 3-4 teeth and possibly 3-4 teeth on fixed finger. This model seems to apply for the species of all the three genera.

Pectines. For a majority of the observed species, pectines, were short and bulky, or sometimes not bulky with the number of teeth ranging from 4 to 6 and, in all cases the absence of fulcra; this model applying to the new species described here (Fig. 8). For at least two species of the genus *Chaerilobuthus*, *C. brandti* Lourenço, 2022 and *C. petersi* Lourenço, 2024 this model was somewhat different with long pectines and a higher number of teeth, ranging from 7 to 11.

Shape of the telson. For a majority of the known species belonging to the three genera, the telson is globular and bulky; as for the new species (Fig. 12). More rarely, such as for *C. serratus* Lourenço, 2016 the telson can be slightly to strongly slender (Fig. 13).

Shape of the sternum. The globality of the species present the sternum with a pentagonal shape, such as for the new species described here. In some species, however, the sternum can be particularly wide.

Shape of the spiracles. In the majority of the observed species of the three genera the shape of the spiracles is round; this is the case of the new species described here (Fig. 7). A limited number of species can show oval spiracles or exceptionally slightly slit-like spiracles.

Shape of pedipalp chela. The majority of the observed species in the three genera, show chela shapes from slightly to strongly bulky. Rarely, chela shape can be slender, as for two species of *Chaerilobuthus*, *C. brandti* and *C. petersi*. The new species described here shows very slender chelae (Fig. 9-11), with a very strong length vs width ratio; only inferior to that of *C. brandti*.

Trichobothrial pattern. Despite the important number of species described for the genus *Chaerilobuthus* and those described for the other two known genera, the precise numbers of trichobothria presented by most species of all genera remain imprecise. The trichobothrial pattern originally defined was an association of types A and B as defined by Vachon (1974) for respectively the Buthoids and Chaeriloids. This model seems to be the same present in the species of all three genera, with however some variation in numbers and positions (Fig. 9-11). Nevertheless, the globality of the trichobothria, which are most certainly present in most species, will yet require some further studies. This question should be clarified in future observations, since more and more well-preserved specimens are becoming available.

Distribution and shape of rows of granules on chela fingers. The majority of the studied species of the genera *Chaerilobuthus* and *Serratochaerilobuthus* present the fixed and movable fingers of pedipalps slender, with the fixed finger more robust than the movable finger; the cutting edges with 6 to 7 rows of granules separated by weak to moderate spinoid accessory granules and the extremity of each finger terminating by one moderately marked spinoid granule (Fig. 3). For the new genus presently described, the fingers of pedipalps are equally slender, with the fixed finger more robust than the movable finger; cutting edges with only 6-6 rows of granules separated however by stronger spinoid accessory granules and the extremity of each finger terminating by three spinoid granules, two at the tip and one just behind the two most terminal (Fig. 4). This character being diagnostic.

Types of setae and/or spines in legs tarsi. In all observed species of the genera *Chaerilobuthus* and *Serratochaerilobuthus* legs tarsi show a few rather long and very thin ventral setae (Fig. 1). The tarsi of the new genus and species described here show strong spinoid setae (Fig. 2), which is also diagnostic.

Taxonomic treatment and systematic description of the new genus and species

Family **Chaerilobuthidae** Lourenço & Beigel, 2011

Genus ***Spinochaerilobuthus*** Lourenço **gen. n.**

ZooBank: https://zoobank.org/19648514-BAC7-4F3E-901D-FD31D2A5C2C0

Type species. – *Spinochaerilobuthus andreschmidti* Lourenço **sp. n.**
(Fig. 2,4,6-12,14-17)

ZooBank: https://zoobank.org/6F38826A-49A1-4785-BFF6-630FB9CD1B05

Diagnosis for the new genus. – General morphology shows similarities with other members of the family Chaerilobuthidae, in particular the presence of only vestigial median and lateral eyes, the presence of a globular telson vesicle and a trichobothrial pattern recalling both types A and B defined by Vachon (1974). The following combination of characters can however, be used to diagnose the new genus: Carapace elongated with the anterior margin emarginated, concave. Pedipalp chela long and not bulky; relationship ratio between chela length and chela width = 7.86 (see measurements), a value only similar to one species of *Chaerilobuthus* (Lourenço & Velten, 2022); ventral trichobothria of chela hand, $\mathbf{V_1}$ and $\mathbf{V_2}$ in an almost horizontal position

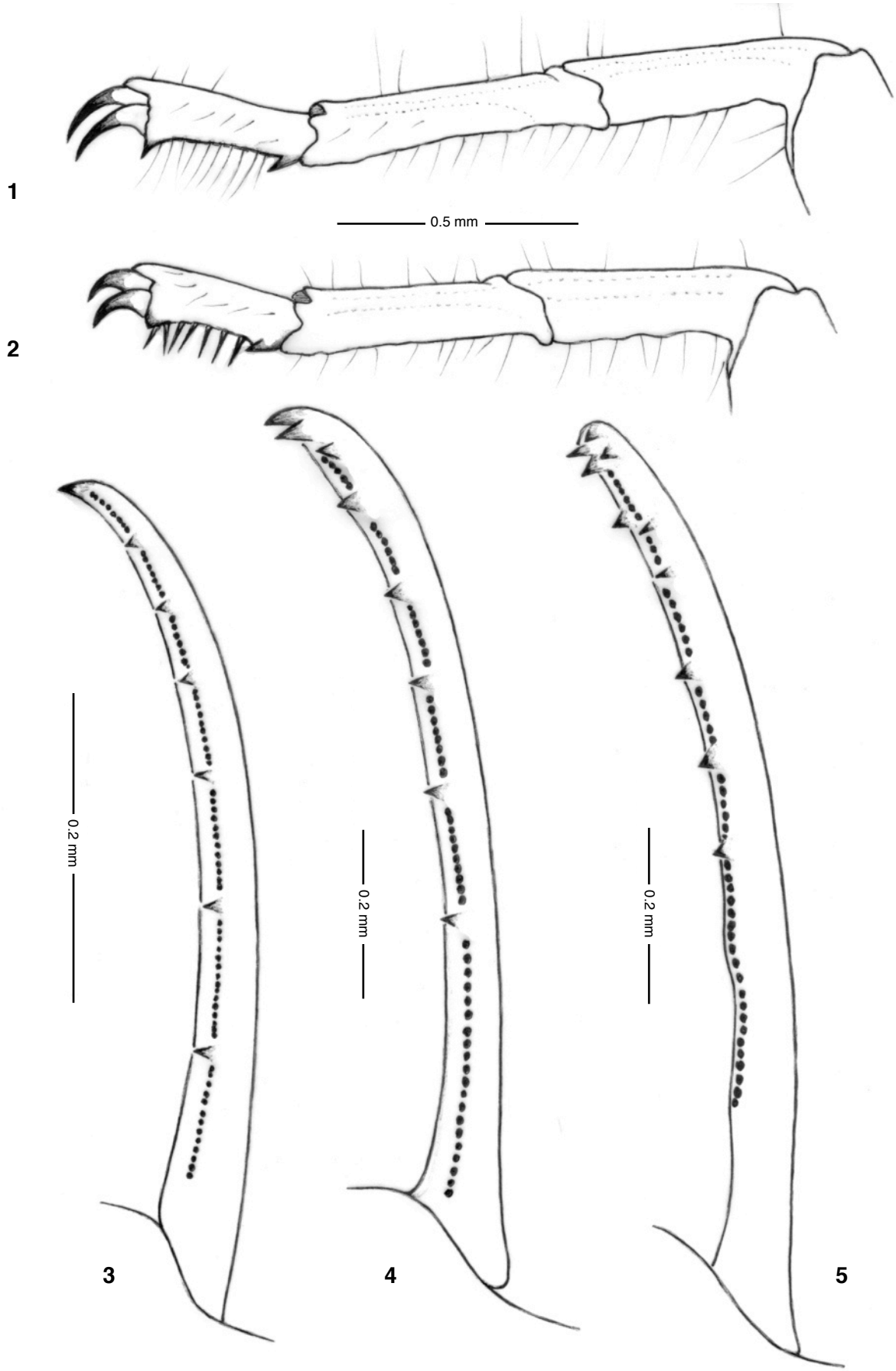

Fig. **1**-**2**. Leg IV, showing setation of the tarsi. **1**. *Chaerilobuthus serratus*, male. **2**. *Spinochaerilobuthus andreschmidti* Lourenço **gen**. **n**., **sp**. **n**., female holotype.

Fig. **3**-**5**. Cutting edges of movables fingers showing granulations and spines. **3**. *Chaerilobuthus complexus*, female holotype. **4**. *Spinochaerilobuthus andreschmidti* Lourenço **gen**. **n**., **sp**. **n**., female holotype. **5**. *Archaeobuthus estephani* Lourenço, male holotype; figure showed for comparative purposes.

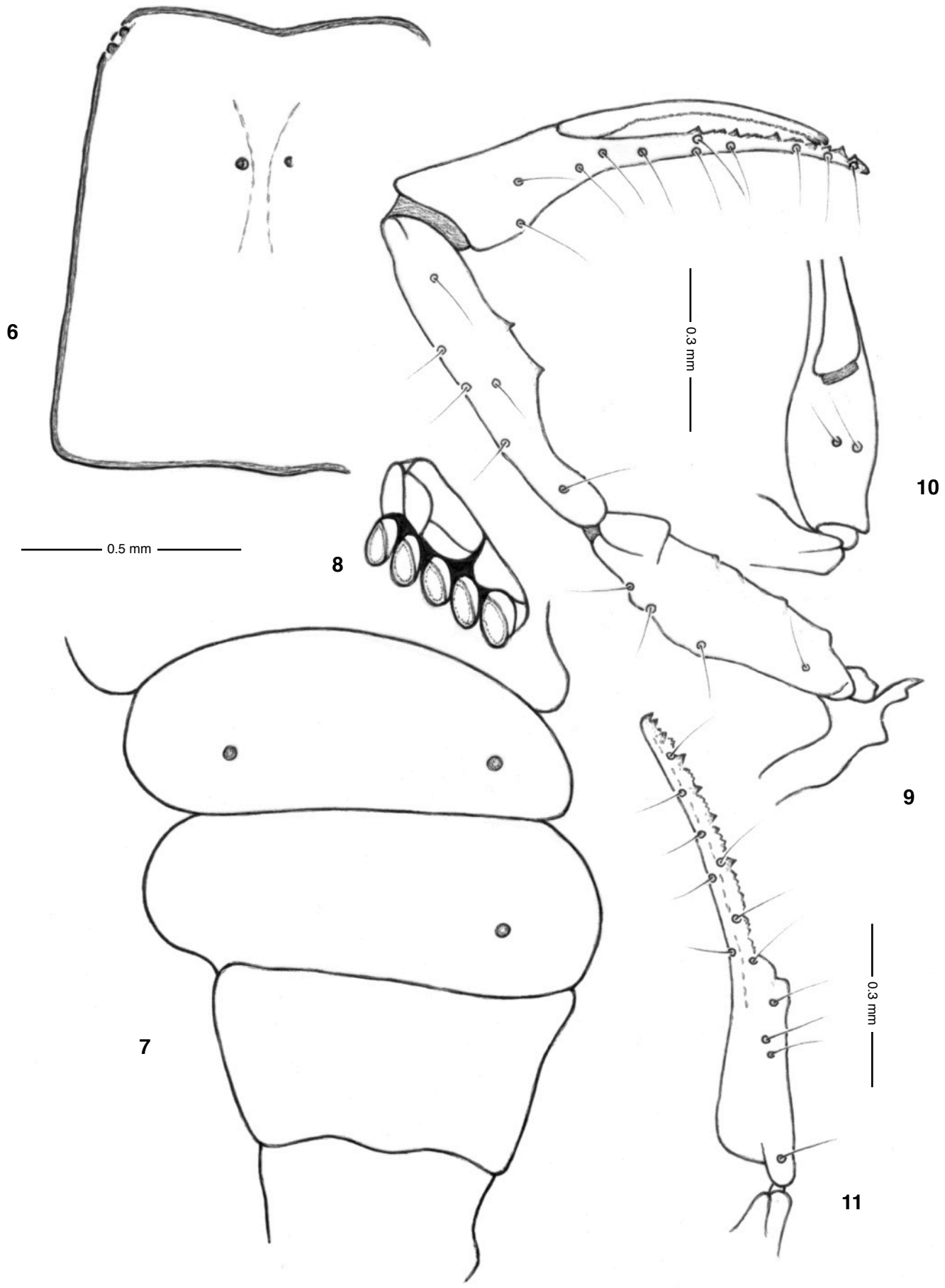

Fig. **6-11**. *Spinochaerilobuthus andreschmidti* Lourenço **gen**. **n**., **sp**. **n**., female holotype. **6**. Carapace, showing eyes. **7**. Sternites V-VII, showing spiracles. **8**. Pecten. **9-11**. Trichobothrial pattern. **9-10**. Left pedipalp showing femur, patella and chela, dorsal aspect and chela ventral aspect. **11**. Right chela, dorso-external aspect.

to each other. Spiracles small and oval in shape. Fixed and movable fingers of pedipalps slender, with the fixed finger more robust than the movable finger; cutting edges with 6-6 rows of granules separated by strong spinoid accessory granules; extremity of each finger terminating by three spinoid granules, two at the tip and one just behind the two most terminal. Tibial spurs absent from legs III and IV; pedal spurs moderately strong; tarsi with spinoid setae; tarsi ungues not elongated.

Etymology. – Generic name refers to the association of the closely related genus *Chaerilobuthus* with the presence of strong spination in the new genus.

Diagnosis for the new species. – The diagnosis for the new species is similar to that of the new genus. A few characteristics can however be indicated. Carapace markedly elongated with the presence of only vestigial median and lateral eyes; telson vesicle globular and smooth. Trichobothrial between types A and B defined by Vachon (1974); chela hand with at least 2 dorsal, 4-5 external and 2 ventral trichobothria; fixed finger with 5-6 dorso-external and 1 internal trichobothria; femur with 2 dorsal, 1 internal and 3-4 external trichobothria; patella with 3 dorsal, 3-4 external. Pectines short, small and not bulky with 4-5 teeth; sternum pentagonal; spiracles small and oval in shape; chelicerae with moderately long distal teeth which overlap for about one third of their length; movable finger with distal internal tooth longer than distal external tooth; movable finger with 3-4 teeth and possibly 3-4 teeth on fixed finger. Pedipalp chela with a weakly granular internal carina; patella and femur with diminutive apophysis on the internal face. Fixed and movable fingers of pedipalps slender, with the fixed finger more robust than the movable finger; cutting edges with 6-6 rows of granules separated by strong spinoid accessory granules; extremity of each finger terminating by three spinoid granules, two at the tip and one just behind the two most terminal. Tibial spurs absent from legs III and IV; pedal spurs moderately strong; tarsi with spinoid setae; tarsi ungues not elongated. General chetotaxy weak to moderate in all segments.

Holotype. – A female; most certainly a juvenile specimen.

Type locality and horizon. – Myanmar (Burma), Kachin; precise locality remains uncertain; Lower Cretaceous.

Patronym. – The specific name honours Mr Andrè Schmidt (Zofingen, Switzerland) who supported the present study.

Repository. – The type specimen is deposited in the collection of Mr Andrè Schmidt (Zofingen Switzerland).

Description

Coloration. – The scorpion is yellow to brownish-yellow with several dark zones on body and appendages resulting from the oxidation of the resin; carapace, tergites and sternites yellow to brownish-yellow; metasomal segments brownish-yellow with some darker zones; telson brownish-yellow; pedipalps yellow to reddish-yellow; legs yellow to reddish-yellow. Ventral aspect of the specimen globally dark yellow.

Morphology. – Carapace weakly granular to almost smooth; anterior margin weakly concave. Carinae absent and furrows moderate. Median ocular tubercle with diminutive eyes; two pairs of very reduced lateral eyes. Sternum pentagonal. Mesosomal tergites as carapace with some minute granulations, almost smooth; one median vestigial carina on tergites I-VI; tergite VII with five vestigial carinae; median almost absent. Pectines short but not bulk, with 4-5 teeth and absence of fulcra. Sternites smooth to chagrined with very small rounded spiracles. Metasomal segments I to IV moderately carinated; dorsal carinae are well marked on segments II-IV with weakly marked spinoid granules; segment V with two dorsal carinae not spinoid; ventral carinae on segments I to V weakly marked; all segments are flattened dorso-ventrally; setation on segments I to V weakly marked. Telson with a strongly globular vesicle, without granulations; aculeus shorter than vesicle and moderately curved; setation weakly marked. Cheliceral dentition with moderately long distal teeth which overlap for about one third of their length; movable finger with distal internal tooth longer than distal external tooth; movable finger with 3-4 teeth and possibly 3-4 teeth on fixed finger; the teeth of both fingers match respectively (Vachon, 1963). Pedipalps: femur with 4-5 carinae and without spinoid granules on internal face; patella with dorso-internal, dorso-external and ventro-external carinae observable; internal face with two small apophysis. Chela with a few marked carinae; dorso-internal with weakly marked granules; all faces weakly granular, almost smooth. Fixed and movable fingers with 6-6 longitudinal rows of small rounded granules, respectively separated by strong spinoid accessory granules; extremity of each finger terminating by three spinoid granules, two at the tip and one just behind the two most terminal. Trichobothriotaxy: a trichobothrial pattern recalling those of both buthoid and chaeriloids, types A and B can be observed (Vachon, 1974); see diagnosis for details. Legs tarsi with spinoid ventral setae; tarsi ungues not elongated. Tibial spurs absent from legs III and IV; pedal spurs moderately long.

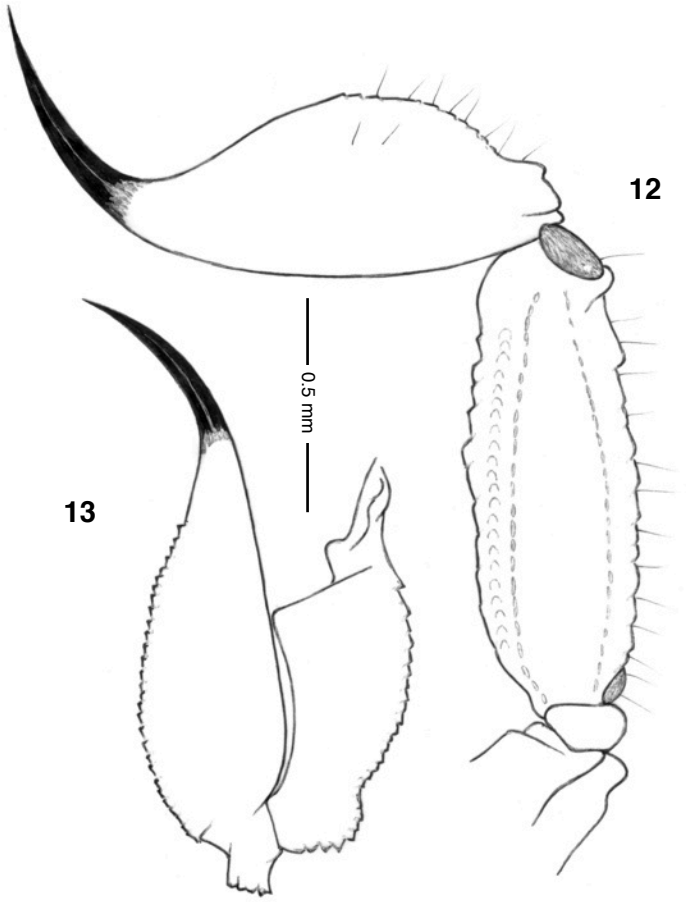

Fig. **12-13**. Metasomal segment V and telson, lateral aspect. **12**. *Spinochaerilobuthus andreschmidti* Lourenço **gen**. **n**., **sp**. **n**., female holotype. **13**. *Chaerilobuthus serratus*, male.

Morphometric values (mm). Female holotype of *Spinochaerilobuthus andreschmidti* Lourenço **sp**. **n**.

– ***Total length*** (including telson) 7.37.

– ***Carapace***
length 1.12;
anterior width 0.77;
posterior width 0.97.

– ***Mesosoma*** length 1.62.

– ***Metasomal segments***
I: length 0.41, width 0.54;
II: length 0.47, width 0.51;
III: length 0.54, depth 0.47;
IV: length 0.72, depth 0.48;
V: length 1.27, depth 0.44.

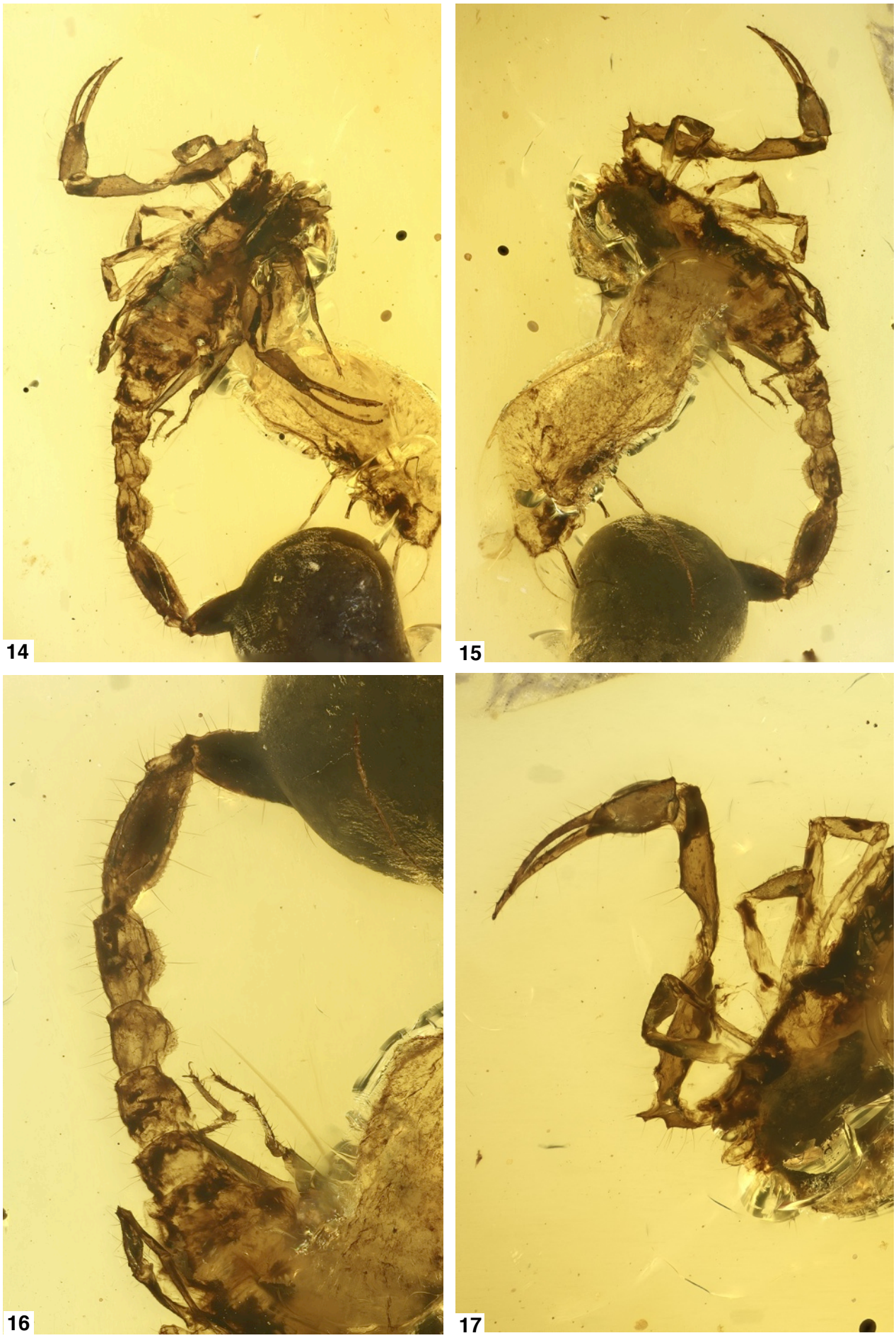

Fig. **14-17**. *Spinochaerilobuthus andreschmidti* Lourenço **gen**. **n**., **sp**. **n**., female holotype. **14-15**. Habitus, dorsal and ventral aspects. **16**. Metasoma and telson, latero-dorsal aspect in detail. **17**. Right pedipalp, dorso-lateral aspect in detail.

Fig. **18**. *Chaerilobuthus serratus*, male. Habitus, dorsal aspect, in the stone.

– ***Telson***
length 1.22;
vesicle depth 0.47.

– ***Pedipalp***
femur length 1.12, width 0.27;
patella length 1.27, width 0.24;
chela length 1.65, width 0.21;
movable finger length 1.11.

– ***Chela length*** *vs* ***Chela width*** = 1.65/0.21 = 7.86

Another species also examined during this study

Chaerilobuthus serratus Lourenço, 2016
(Fig. 1, 13, 18)

A small male juvenile, with a total length of 8.4 mm, included in an oval piece of reddish-yellow amber, measuring 22 x 16 x 5-6 mm. The specimen is almost complete but poorly preserved. A number of characters can however be well observed and the specimen is defined as a male. This is the fourth specimen to be recorded and studied for this species. The scorpion is now deposited in the collections of J. Velten.

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Author's contribution [1]

Publisher Correspondence. – WL
Writing the article. – WL
Description. – WL
Article proofreading. – WL
Bibliographic work. – WL
Material study. – WL & JV
Author of the figures. – WL (Fig. 1-13).

[1] **WL** = Wilson R. Lourenço – **JV** = Jürgen Velten.

Résumé

Lourenço W. R. & Velten J., 2026. – Descriptions d'un nouveau genre et d'une nouvelle espèce associés à la famille des Chaerilobuthidae Lourenço & Beigel, 2011 de l'ambre du Crétacé inférieur du Myanmar (Chelicerata : Scorpiones). *Faunitaxys*, 14(29): 1 – 8.

Un nouveau genre et une nouvelle espèce supplémentaires de scorpion fossile appartenant à la famille des Chaerilobuthidae Lourenço & Beigel, 2011, sont décrits de l'ambre du Crétacé inférieur du Myanmar. *Spinochaerilobuthus* Lourenço **gen**. **n**., avec la nouvelle espèce *Spinochaerilobuthus andreschmidti* Lourenço **sp**. **n**., représente le troisième genre à être clairement associé à ce groupe familial, un des plus riches en espèces parmi ceux trouvés dans l'ambre du Myanmar. Le nouveau genre présente plusieurs caractères morphologiques permettant de le distinguer nettement des deux autres genres préalablement confirmés pour cette famille, confirmant ainsi l'existence d'une importante variabilité générique au sein des Chaerilobuthidae. Des commentaires supplémentaires sur la variabilité des caractères morphologiques sont également proposés.

Mots-clés. – Scorpiones, *Spinochaerilobuthus*, *andreschmidti*, fossile, taxonomie, description, nouveau genre, nouvelle espèce, variabilité, Ambre Birman.

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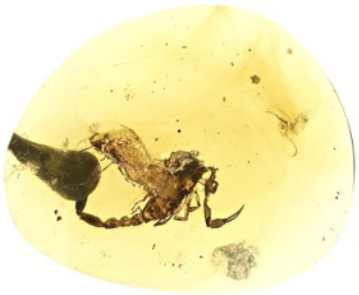

Illustration de la couverture :

Spinochaerilobuthus andreschmidti Lourenço **gen**. **n**., **sp**. **n**., in the stone. Habitus, ventral aspect.

Crédits:

Wilson R. **Lourenço** : Fig. 1-13.

Alexander Beigel : Fig. 14-18 & couverture.

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